IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Piepenbrink et al. Conf. No.: 5994

Serial No.: 09/886,160 **Art Unit:** 3629

Filing Date: 06/21/2001 Examiner: Thai, Cang G.

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR Docket No.: END920010038US1

MANAGING A RELATIONSHIP WITH (IBME-0018)

A VENTURE COMPANY

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

I. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2006.

Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.